

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming system which has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and includes a plurality of image forming devices connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device  
5 is selected from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said image forming system comprising:

display means for displaying an information input  
10 screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for inputting information relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

15 function information acquiring means for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

destination device selecting mode designating means  
20 for designating one of an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said plurality of image forming devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for arbitrarily  
25 selecting an image forming device as said destination device; and

display control means for controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information.

2. An image forming device having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being capable of selecting other image forming devices connected to said image forming device through communication media, as a destination device for an inputted image, said image forming device comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information indicating functions relating to the image formation from said image forming device and said other image forming devices;

mode designating means for designating a destination device selecting mode between an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination device image forming device from said image forming device and said other image forming devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for

arbitrarily selecting said destination device image forming device; and

display control means for controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information.

3. A function setting method of setting functions of an image forming system including a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being connected to one another through communication media, said image forming system being capable of selecting an image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for forming an image inputted from one of said image forming devices, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means;

designating one of an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination device image forming device among said image output devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for arbitrarily selecting an image forming device as

said destination device;

controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information; and

performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen.

4. A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and includes a plurality of image forming devices connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said

plurality of image forming devices;

5 a selecting mode designating module for designating  
an automatic destination device selecting mode for  
automatically selecting an image forming device as a  
destination device among said plurality of image forming  
devices or an individual destination device selecting  
mode for selecting an image forming device as said  
destination device; and

10 a display control module for controlling display of  
information about the functions relating to the image  
formation on said information input screen according to  
the designated destination device selecting mode and the  
acquired function information.

5 5. An image forming system which has a plurality of  
functions relating to image formation and includes a  
plurality of image forming devices connected through  
communication media, and wherein an image forming device  
is selected from said plurality of image forming devices  
as a destination device for formation of an image  
inputted from one of said plurality of image forming  
devices, said image forming system comprising:

10 display means for displaying an information input  
screen for setting functions relating to the image  
formation;

function setting input means for inputting  
information relating to setting of the functions on said  
information input screen;



on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring  
function information indicating functions relating to the  
image formation from said image forming device and said  
5 other image forming devices;

mode designating means for designating an automatic  
destination device selecting mode for automatically  
selecting an image forming device as a destination device  
from said image forming device and said other image  
10 forming devices; and

control means for selecting an image forming device,  
which is able to execute a function set on said  
information input screen, as said destination device  
according to the acquired function information and  
15 displaying information about the selected image forming  
device on said information input screen, if said  
automatic destination device selecting mode is  
designated.

7. A function setting method of setting functions  
of an image forming system including a plurality of image  
forming devices having a plurality of functions relating  
to image formation and being connected to one another  
5 through communication media, said image forming system  
being capable of selecting an image forming device from  
said plurality of image forming devices as a destination  
device for forming an image inputted from one of said  
image forming devices, said method comprising the steps

of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

5 displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means, and setting said functions;

designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination  
10 image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices; and

selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device according to the acquired  
15 function information, and controlling said display means in such a manner as to display information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

8. A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and includes a plurality of  
5 image forming devices connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said



plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

5 a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

10 a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said plurality of image forming devices;

15 a mode designating module for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said plurality of image forming devices;

20 a destination device selecting module for selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device, according to the acquired function information if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated; and

25 a display control module for displaying information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen.

9. An image forming system which has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and includes a

plurality of image forming devices connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said image forming system comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for inputting information relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

selecting mode designating means for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said image forming devices; and

control means for sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information and displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting



sampld image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

11. A function setting method of setting functions of an image forming system including a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being connected to one another through communication media, said image forming system being capable of selecting an image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for forming an image inputted from one of said image forming devices, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means;

performing an inputting operation relating setting of the functions on said information input screen;

designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices; and

sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device

according to the acquired function information and displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

12. A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and includes a plurality of image forming devices connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

a selecting mode designating module for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a

destination device among said image forming devices; and

a prospective destination device sampling module for sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated; and

a display control module for displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen.

13. An apparatus for transmitting image data to one of image forming apparatus/comprising:

selecting means having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatus is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatus is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator and

display control means for controlling a display means,

wherein in said first mode, said display control means controls said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by a currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatus is displayed on a screen for setting functions, while at

least one function that is not executable by said  
currently selected one of said plurality of image forming  
apparatus is not displayed on said screen or displayed on  
said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the  
operator as not being executable by said currently  
selected one of said plurality of image forming  
apparatus, and in said second mode, said display control  
means controls said display means in a manner such that  
at least one function that is executable by any of a  
plurality of prospective destination image forming  
apparatus is displayed on said screen, while at least one  
function that is not executable by any of said plurality  
of prospective destination image forming apparatus is not  
displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a  
manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not  
being executable by any of said plurality of prospective  
destination image forming apparatus.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein  
said plurality of prospective destination image forming  
apparatus are ones of said plurality of image forming  
apparatus that can execute at least one set function.

15. An apparatus for transmitting image data to  
one of image forming apparatus comprising:

selecting means having a first mode in which one  
of said plurality of image forming apparatus is selected  
in accordance with a designation of an individual image  
forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in

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wherein in said second mode, said selecting means is responsive to an instruction for setting a function, for again selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatus that can execute the function, and said display control means controls said display means to display a screen containing information indicative of the again selected image forming apparatus.